



Islands of Singular Charm: A Literary, Historical and Cultural tour of New Zealand

15 NOV – 30 NOV 2021

Code: 22149

Tour Leaders **Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN**

Physical Ratings 

Explore New Zealand's literary heritage with authors Katherine Mansfield, Janet Frame, Ngaio Marsh and others, and enjoy stunning scenery, great food and warm hospitality.

Overview

Tour Highlights

- Learn about the literature, history and culture of New Zealand through lectures and site visits by [Susannah Fullerton](#), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia.
- Visit the family homes of Katherine Mansfield, Janet Frame, Kate Sheppard and Dame Ngaio Marsh.
- View rare book collections at the Dunedin Public Library, University of Otago Library and Oamaru Public Library
- Join author Ruth Williamson on a literary tour of the Otago Peninsula.
- Visit a country property established by Jane Austen's great-nephews, and home to writer Lady Mary Anne Barker.
- By 4WD visit Samuel Butler's 'Erewhon Station', and view sites associated with *Lord of the Rings*.
- Travel the rugged west coast and visit Fox Glacier on the journey south through Westland National Park.
- Spend 2 nights at the [Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge](#), in the heart of Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area where local experts will take you through the rainforest into the habitats of glow-worms, Morepork Owls, fur seals and Fiordland Crested Penguins.
- Near the shores of Lake Wanaka enjoy a poetry reading by poet and playwright, Liz Breslin.
- Enjoy a scenic drive by 4WD to the setting of Tolkein's Middle Earth at Glenorchy and the nearby town of Paradise.
- Travel through the Fiordland National Park encompassing mountain, lake, fiord and rainforest environments.
- Conclude with a relaxing overnight cruise aboard the [Milford Mariner](#) and explore the full length of Milford Sound!

16-day Literary, Historical and Cultural tour of New Zealand

Overnight Wellington (3 nights) • Dunedin (2 nights) • Ashburton (2 nights) • Christchurch (2 nights) • Lake Moeraki (2 nights) • Queenstown (2 nights) • Milford Sound Cruise (1 night) • Queenstown (1 night)

About the Tour

For Katherine Mansfield her native land was made up of "islands of singular charm". Janet Frame found her country "a territory of loneliness", while for Ngaio Marsh it was the place she could deposit corpses in boiling mud pools or bales of sheep's wool. Eleanor Catton in *The Luminaries* explores its gold-digging past, Samuel Butler wrote of it satirically as a utopia in *Erewhon*, and Lady Barker described station life in a best-selling book. Visiting writers have also had things to say about New Zealand – from Darwin, Trollope, Kipling and Conan Doyle to more modern authors like Rose Tremain and Paul Theroux, writers have enthused over the scenery, felt overawed by the majestic landscapes, and have loved the people, while film makers have used the breathtaking vistas as backdrops in many movies.

This tour will explore the rich literary heritage of New Zealand. There will be visits to the homes of writers and their graves, we will see rare collections in libraries, listen to a contemporary poet read her work, hear about national fellowships for authors, and enjoy guided literary walks in towns and cities. Statues of writers have been included, there will be an unusual visit to a homestead with intriguing Jane Austen associations, and we will walk where stories and novels are set.

You will also learn about New Zealand's past – how it came to be the first nation to give women the vote, how the gold rush shaped its towns, about living off the sheep's back, and the development of its wine

industry. New Zealand's culture is unique, with its Maori and Pacific Island cultural mix, its emphasis on adventure sports, heading out into the bush, protecting its superb environment, and its sense of being an important little country at the end of the world (or the beginning, as NZ is the first country in the world to see the light of a new day).

This tour will show you some of New Zealand's magnificent scenery, with a spectacular train trip through the mountains, a glacier, a stunning cruise in UNESCO heritage Fiordland, a stay at a luxurious rainforest lodge, bush walks, wildlife and much more. There is only one place on any mainland where you can find an albatross colony – we will visit it and see the birds flying home at the end of a day out at sea. There will be dinner at Parliament House, a picnic by a lake, and other meals where you will enjoy the country's famed cuisine and national products such as whitebait, Vogels bread, kumara, hokey-pokey icecream, local cheeses and wines.

Last year *Lonely Planet* listed New Zealand in its Top Five Countries in the world to visit. Come and discover why for yourself. Join Kiwi Susannah Fullerton in delving into its literary heritage, viewing its scenic wonders, and revelling in its vibrant, friendly and memorable culture.

Leaders



Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published several books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works both in Australia and overseas.

Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a postgraduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For over 20 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen's works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah's latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* and a new memoir *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*.

Susannah is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer. She gives talks on famous authors, their lives and works, and on history, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools and for a great variety of clubs and societies. Susannah uses her training in drama to delight her audiences with dramatic readings from novels and poems. Her interest in literature is wide ranging. She is a member of the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Australian Brontë Association, the NSW Dickens Society and she is Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She has worked on literary prize committees, organised literary conferences and is a most experienced lecturer and group leader. To discover more about Susannah's activities, visit www.susannahfullerton.com.au

- Media coverage of recent tour to the Southern States: <https://msgr.smugmug.com/Australians-tour-Putnam/>



Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. The tour price includes breakfast daily, lunches/picnics and evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch/packed picnic and D=dinner.

Wellington – 3 nights

Day 1: Monday 15 November, Arrive Wellington

- Airport transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight
- Information Meeting
- Literary orientation walk
- Pre-dinner talk from Dr Nicholas Wilson
- Welcome Evening meal

This tour begins in Wellington. Participants taking the ASA 'designated' flight are scheduled to arrive in the early afternoon. Upon arrival we transfer by private coach to the [Cophorne Hotel, Oriental Bay](#). If you are travelling independently, please make your own way to the hotel; check-in is from 2.00pm.

In the late afternoon Susannah will lead a walk around the bay to Wellington Waterfront, to view the Writers Walk which showcases 23 unexpectedly placed sculptures featuring literary quotations. These include quotes by James K. Baxter, Fiona Kidman, Bill Manhire, Vincent O'Sullivan and Katherine Mansfield. All the quotes are about Wellington and you can read them while admiring the spectacular harbour location.

Before our welcome dinner we will be entertained by Susannah's brother, Dr Nicholas Wilson, whose medical research into the James Bond movies is both intriguing and comic. (Overnight Wellington) D

Day 2: Tuesday 16 November, Wellington – Days Bay – Wellington

- Katherine Mansfield's Birthplace and Thorndon Walk
- Wellington Botanic Garden
- Days Bay and Muritai

Katherine Mansfield is not only NZ's greatest writer, but she is internationally recognised as one of the world's finest writers of short stories. Virginia Woolf once said that Mansfield was the only writer she had ever felt jealous of! This morning we visit her birthplace in Thorndon. She was born Kathleen Mansfield Beauchamp in 1888, disappointing her parents because she was not a boy. The house is now a museum, with photographs, a short film, period furniture and a shop – all giving an excellent feel for the era of her childhood which was so important an inspiration for her writing. We will enjoy a traditional morning tea at the house.

To young Katherine and her friend Molly, walking in Thorndon was "an adventure, the unknown lurking round every corner". We will follow in their footsteps, viewing the home the Beauchamps lived in at the turn of the century, the high school she attended, and the place where the girls went swimming in "long tunics with short sleeves made of navy blue (very occasionally) red serge trimmed with white braid, and worn over navy-blue bloomers".

From there we visit the city's Botanic Gardens, setting of her story about a young woman who goes off the path, *In the Botanical Gardens*. Katherine loved to walk here and think and dream. We will enjoy lunch in the Begonia House café.

Much of Katherine Mansfield's short life was spent in England and Europe, but almost all her best stories are set in NZ. After lunch we drive to Days Bay, setting for her story *At the Bay*. There we will view from the outside the holiday home where Mansfield stayed with her family and which she often wrote of in her stories. Days Bay is a pretty harbourside resort that was once accessible only by ferry. We will also drive further around the harbour to Muritai where the Beauchamp family also stayed, to view the outside of the cottage they once rented. There will be time for a stroll and coffee before we drive back to Wellington along scenic Marine Drive. (Overnight Wellington) BL

Day 3: Wednesday 17 November, Wellington

- Drive up Victoria Lookout
- Katherine Mansfield Statue
- The Katherine Mansfield collection at the Alexander Turnbull Library
- Afternoon at leisure with optional visit to Te Papa
- Dinner at Bellamys by Logan Brown at the Beehive

Before she died, Katherine Mansfield asked her husband John Middleton Murry to burn all her papers. Controversially, he ignored this request. That means that we can view letters and manuscripts in the fabulous Katherine Mansfield Collection held by the Alexander Turnbull Library, NZ's National Library. The collection includes her notebooks, correspondence, sketches, photos and the typewriter on which, even when dying, she determinedly typed out her wonderful stories.

Lunch will be at leisure in the city, and we then view the Lambton Quay statue of Katherine Mansfield which was erected in 2016. It is called 'Woman of Words'. Her 3m high stainless steel figure is covered with her own words, nicely reflecting the fact that she wished to be seen as a writer first, and a woman second. That will be followed by a drive up to Victoria Lookout for fabulous views of New Zealand's capital city (recently

voted the country's "coolest city" by *Lonely Planet*.

There will be free time in the afternoon to explore Te Papa (meaning 'Our Place'), the national museum which has art collections, Maori artefacts, and items relating to Pacific cultures and the natural history of NZ.

This evening we enjoy a very special dining experience at Logan Brown's in the Beehive. The Beehive is the nation's Parliament Building, opened in 1981. Situated on its third floor, this restaurant has only recently been opened to the general public with a new chef. NZ is famed for its cuisine and our dinner should be a memorable culinary experience. (Overnight Wellington) BD

Dunedin – 2 nights

Day 4: Thursday 18 November, Wellington – Dunedin

- Morning flight from Wellington to Dunedin (0835-0950)
- Literary Walking tour of Dunedin with Beverly Martens
- The Reed Rare Book Collection, Dunedin Public Library – with Librarian Julian Smith

This morning we fly to Dunedin, the 'Edinburgh of the South'. The city had its heyday in the 1860s gold rush and Scottish immigrants named it after their own capital (Dun Edin = Edin Burgh), replicated the street names and called its river 'The Water of Leith'.

A few years ago Dunedin was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Literature. We will learn about some of its rich literary heritage on a guided walk with Beverly Martens, to see the Octagon statue of Robert Burns, and hear stories about NZ writers past and present.

The Dunedin Public Library has a superb rare book collection because author and publisher Alfred Reed donated all his books to the institution. These include his Charles Dickens, Samuel Johnson and Walt Whitman collections, and also incunabula, letters, pictures and literary memorabilia. We will have a special viewing of the collection in the afternoon. (Overnight Dunedin) D

Day 5: Friday 19 November, Dunedin – Otago Peninsula – Dunedin

- Special Collections & Printing Presses, University of Otago Library
- Robert Lord Writers Cottage
- Larnach Castle: Lunch in the Ballroom and Guided tour of the Castle
- Caselberg Trust, Broad Bay
- Royal Albatross Colony

The University of Otago is the oldest university in NZ. Its library holds some amazing special collections, including one about poet Charles Brasch, another one about Scottish writer (and friend to Sir Walter Scott) James Hogg. There is even a first edition of Frances Burney's *Camilla* to which a young Jane Austen subscribed. We will enjoy a viewing of these collections and of the university's historic printing presses.

The Robert Lord Writer's Cottage has been run for some years as a rent-free residency for writers. The tiny house has three rooms and a courtyard garden. Playwright Robert Lord stayed there on a Burns' Fellowship. We will pay a brief visit to see where more than twenty Kiwi writers have been inspired.

Larnach Castle is the country's only castle – it's actually a 'mock' castle built on the ridge overlooking the scenic Otago Peninsula. Its gardens are officially "of national significance", while its rooms have attracted

ghost-hunters. The castle, built by entrepreneur William Larnach, has inspired several writers. Owen Marshall wrote his novel *The Larnachs*, while Michelanne Forster wrote a play, *Larnach – Castle of Lies*. We will explore the castle and grounds and lunch in its ballroom.

The Caselberg Trust house was once holiday home to one of New Zealand's most important poets and editors, Charles Brasch. There he entertained literary friends Janet Frame, CK Stead and Ruth Dallas and he bequeathed it in his 1973 will to poet and playwright John Caselberg. John and his artist wife Anna used it as a studio. Today it is another place of residency for writers, artists and film makers. We will visit this interesting historic and literary building.

One of the greatest poems ever written is about an albatross. Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* depicts the fateful killing of one of those magnificent birds. To learn more about them we will make an evening visit (the best time of day to see the birds) to the world's only mainland albatross colony, about one hour's scenic drive from Dunedin along the Otago Peninsula. We can take a tour of the centre, watch a David Attenborough film and take a guided walk with a ranger around the colony.

Our literary guide for the day will be Dunedin resident and author, Ruth Williamson. (Overnight Dunedin) BL

Ashburton – 2 nights

Day 6: Saturday 20 November, Dunedin – Oamaru – Ashburton

- Janet Frame Collection, Oamaru Public Library
- Janet Frame Heritage Walking Trail
- Janet Frame Family Home

This morning we set off for Oamaru, stopping en route to admire the extraordinary spherical Moeraki Boulders. These rocks are the subject of Maori myth which tell that they are the remains of calabashes, kumara (sweet potato) and eel baskets that washed ashore after the legendary canoe, the Arai-te-uru, was wrecked.

Oamaru is the main town of the north Otago region, with many of its buildings dating from the 1880s. Janet Frame, prize-winning NZ writer, was born in Dunedin in 1924, but she was brought up in Oamaru. She turns it into 'Waimaru' in her early novels, and it is the setting of her autobiographical *To the Is-Land* and *An Angel at my Table*. Her father worked on the railways and her mother had once been housemaid for Katherine Mansfield's family. The family home, which we will visit, is a small, very simple cottage. There the Frames had to cope with the death by drowning of two of the family. Before seeing where the Frames lived, we will visit the Oamaru Public Library. "I read every book in the Oamaru Library", Janet once boasted. Becoming dux of her primary school gave her a free subscription to the place. The library now has a collection of her books, foreign language editions, reviews, DVDs and other material about her life and writings.

We will take a 90-minute Janet Frame walk through the town, looking at places from her 11 novels, short stories, poems and autobiographies. NZ film director Jane Campion made a popular film about Janet Frame, *An Angel at my Table*.

In Ashburton there will be a group evening meal at the hotel. (Overnight Ashburton) BD

Day 7: Sunday 21 November, Ashburton – ‘Erewhon’ – Ashburton

- Tour of ‘Erewhon Station’ by Clydesdale drawn wagons
- Tour of Lord of the Rings country by 4WD

Today we enjoy some spectacular scenery as we head deep into McKenzie Country – remote and magnificent. In 1860 a young Englishman called Samuel Butler (today best known for his novel *The Way of All Flesh*) came here as a migrant to work on a sheep station called ‘Mesopotamia’. He wrote *A First Year in Canterbury Settlement* and, after returning to England, his satirical novel *Erewhon* (‘Nowhere’ (nearly spelled backwards). Erewhon is still a sheep station today and we will visit to see the landscape that so impressed Butler and which has changed little since his time. We will have a picnic lunch in the shearing shed of ‘Erewhon Station’ and enjoy a tour of the farm in wagons drawn by Clydesdales.

This is also *Lord of the Rings* country. In the Peter Jackson movies, it was the site of Edoras, capital of Rohan. We will travel through this glorious countryside accompanied by a local expert on the area, who will show us some of the locations used in the trilogy. (Overnight Ashburton) BLD

Christchurch – 2 nights

Day 8: Monday 22 November, Ashburton – Whitecliffs – Christchurch

- Steventon Homestead, Whitecliffs

This morning we drive to ‘Steventon Homestead’, about one hour from Christchurch. This station property was first established by Jane Austen’s two great-nephews Arthur and Richard Knight in 1852. They named it ‘Steventon’ after the tiny Hampshire village where their famous aunt Jane was born.

Steventon Homestead has also been the actual residence of a best-selling writer, Lady Barker. This remarkable woman, who was born in Jamaica, lived in England and then came to NZ, wrote *Station Life in New Zealand* which sold extremely well at home and overseas. She was the author of many other books as well, including books about cooking, *Station Amusements in New Zealand*, and *Colonial Memories* which also covered the time she spent in Western Australia. In her books ‘Steventon’ became ‘Broomielaw’. We will enjoy a traditional lunch at the homestead, listen to a talk about its history, and take a guided walk around the property.

Late afternoon and evening will be at leisure in Christchurch, with time for a stroll in the Botanic Gardens, founded in 1863 and considered some of the finest gardens in the Southern hemisphere. Or you might like to explore Cathedral Square, with its deconsecrated cathedral (severely damaged in the earthquake) and its statue of John Robert Godley, founder of the Canterbury Settlement and friend of Anthony Trollope. (Overnight Christchurch) BL

Day 9: Tuesday 23 November, Christchurch

- Kate Sheppard House (TBC)
- Riccarton House: Deans Cottage, Heritage Bush Walk and Guided tour of the House
- Ngaio Marsh Museum
- Victoria Park

In 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to give women the vote. The campaign was spearheaded by Kate Sheppard – she wrote to the press and politicians, organised demonstrations and

spoke at public meetings. There has been a rock musical created about Kate's life – it was called *That Bloody Woman*. Her Christchurch home is in private hands, but we hope to visit and to learn more there about this forceful woman who achieved so much.

Lunch will be eaten at historic Riccarton House, a home set in beautiful gardens bordering the Avon River. Deans Cottage, on the property, is the oldest building on the Canterbury Plains. Bushland by the house is probably the oldest protected natural area in the country and contains an extraordinary variety of species. We will learn about John Deans and his wife Jane who were important in the history of Canterbury – they are the subject of the book *Pioneers of the Plains* by Gordon Ogilvie.

This afternoon we visit the Ngaio Marsh Museum. Ngaio Marsh was one of the 'Queens of Crime' (along with Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers and Margery Allingham) and her mysteries have never been out of print. Several are set in NZ. Ngaio Marsh was also a keen actor and director of plays and a passionate Shakespearean – she was made Dame Ngaio in recognition of her services to NZ theatre. Her home and garden are full of interesting exhibits about her 'dramatic' life and her work as a crime writer.

Christchurch is famous for its lovely parks. One of them is Victoria Park, opened for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In 1954 it was the site of a gruesome murder when Juliet Hulme and her friend Pauline Parker murdered Pauline's mother. Juliet later changed her name to Anne Perry and, under that name, became an extremely successful writer of murder mysteries. The story inspired the film *Heavenly Creatures* starring Kate Winslet and directed by Peter Jackson, and also a French film, several plays and documentaries. We will visit the park and enjoy its views of the Port Hills. (Overnight Christchurch) BL

Lake Moeraki – 2 nights

Day 10: Wednesday 24 November, Christchurch – Arthur's Pass – Fox Glacier – Lake Moeraki

- TranzAlpine train Christchurch – Arthur's Pass
- Fox Glacier Lookout
- Optional Evening rainforest walk, Lake Moeraki

Today we take one of the world's great train journeys. We depart from Christchurch on the TranzAlpine train to Arthur's Pass. This goes first via the Canterbury Plains and then through the spectacular gorges and valleys of the Waimakariri River. The TranzAlpine then climbs the Southern Alps to the high township of Arthur's Pass. The route known as Arthur's Pass was first used by Maori tribes crossing the island from east to west in search of *pounamu* (jade). Today it's a sophisticated mountain pass, memorable for its scenery as well as its breathtaking civil engineering.

From Arthur's Pass we transfer to our private coach and descend through lush beech rain forest to the West Coast town of Hokitika. Misty mountains gradually give way to classic west coast river and bush scenery, rushing water, impressive bridges and tiny, picturesque towns. Hokitika was first settled in 1860 after the discovery of gold on the west coast. This is the setting of Rose Tremain's novel *The Colour* and Booker-prize winning *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton is also set in and around the town. Made up of lovely old buildings, Hokitika still has the feel of a frontier town. The road south to Fox Glacier travels through farmland that constantly threatens to revert to wilderness.

Fed by four alpine glaciers, Fox Glacier was named after an early New Zealand Prime Minister, William Fox. At 13kms, Fox Glacier is the longest of the awe-inspiring West Coast glaciers. At its head, soaring peaks of over 3,000m dominate the horizon. This mighty river falls 2,600 metres on its journey to the West Coast. New Zealand's glaciers are unique and among the most accessible in the world, as they terminate amongst

temperate rainforest. So special is this mountain environment, that it forms part of the South Westland World Heritage Area.

We continue south to Lake Moeraki (meaning "to sleep or dream by day" in Maori) in the South Westland, where we spend the night at the luxurious lakeside Wilderness Lodge. Surrounded by untouched rainforest, it offers stunning views of the snow-capped Southern Alps. Owned by teacher Anne Saunders and biologist Dr. Gerry McSweeney, the lodge was set up to share its extraordinary setting and to protect rainforests.

This evening we will be treated to a fine meal of whitebait from the river, seafood from the coast, game from the forest and fresh seasonal produce, while enjoying the Riverside Restaurant's gorgeous views. The owners will then accompany our group on an easy after-dinner walk to find glow-worms and morepork owls in the bush and to indulge in a little star-gazing (Fanny Price of *Mansfield Park* would approve). (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD

Day 11: Thursday 25 November, Lake Moeraki

- Optional: Guided walk – freshwater life of Lake Moeraki
- Guided walk – rainforest jungle & Fiordland Crested Penguins on Robinson Crusoe Beach
- Afternoon at leisure

The natural world has always been hugely important to Kiwis – their literature, art, recreational activities and culture are all closely connected with 'the bush'. Today before breakfast, we'll make a short excursion – our guide will introduce us to the freshwater life of Lake Moeraki. Shrimps, snails, small fish and plankton are the building blocks of life in the lake. We'll also get to feed a tame colony of giant long finned eels.

After breakfast at the lodge, there will be a guided walk through the bush to encounter Fiordland Crested Penguins ('Tawaki') on Robinson Crusoe beach. The bush here is jungle-like temperate rainforest with rich bird life, vines, ferns and orchids. You'll see giant kahikatea, rimu and silver beech. At the beach you can sit and watch the penguins waddle between the sea and their breeding areas and chicks. (Note: subject to numbers, there will be a less arduous alternative walk, which is moderately strenuous.) After our morning walk we'll have a reviving lunch of soup, fresh foccacia, salads and a selection of meats at the lodge. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to stroll, read and relax.

Susannah will offer an illustrated talk on New Zealand's history over drinks before dinner. (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD

Queenstown – 2 nights

Day 12: Friday 26 November, Lake Moreaki – Wanaka – Arrowtown – Queenstown

- Poetry Reading by Liz Breslin at the Lake Wanaka Centre
- Guided tour of Historic Arrowtown

This morning we head off to Queenstown, the adventure capital of NZ, set on the shores of lovely Lake Wakatipu in the shadow of the Remarkables mountains. After a short drive along the coast, we cross the Haast River via a long one-lane bridge. The township of Haast began as a construction camp for the Ministry of Works – it still has a touch of the Wild West. Leaving the coast, we drive past waterfalls and stunning scenery up the river valley to Haast Pass. The road snakes through the Aspiring National Park, and the vegetation becomes sparser as we travel inland to reach Lake Hawea and Lake Wanaka, two gorgeous lakes.

In Wanaka, where we stop for lunch, we are privileged to be joined by poet and playwright Liz Breslin. Liz is a noted performer of her own works and she will entertain us near the shores of Lake Wanaka as we enjoy our picnic.

In the afternoon we drive via the Shotover River (famed for its terrifying jet-boat rides), Lake Dunstan and the Clutha River to Queenstown. Along the way, we stop at historic Arrowtown. Gold was discovered there in 1862 and the place still has many buildings from that era. Maxine Alterio's novel *Ribbons of Grace* is set during that tumultuous time, as are parts of *The Luminaries*. (Overnight Queenstown) BL

Day 13: Saturday 27 November, Queenstown

- 4WD tour of Glenorchy and Paradise
- Lunch at the Gibbston Valley Winery Restaurant

J.R.R. Tolkien did not have New Zealand in mind when he wrote *The Hobbit* and his *Lord of the Rings* novels, but he has done wonders for the country's tourism because they were all filmed in NZ by director Peter Jackson. This morning we will take an exciting 4-wheel drive tour to the town of Glenorchy, 'gateway to Middle Earth'. The scenery is truly awesome and it is easy to see why Jackson chose it for his films. Sir Ian McKellen who acted Gandalf, was convinced he'd been transplanted to Tolkien's Middle Earth, and decided that the town of Paradise had been aptly named. We will see sites for Rohan, Isengard, Lothlorien and Dimrill Dale on our journey through the mountains near Queenstown.

Lunch will be enjoyed at Gibbston Valley Winery, one of the most scenic vineyards you will ever see. The South Island's cold winters have produced grapes that, turned mainly into pinot noir, have gained worldwide recognition. The area's cheeses are also noteworthy.

The afternoon will be at leisure to explore Queenstown. You could stroll by the crystal-clear lake, take a gondola ride up Bob's Peak, or even indulge in something more scary and energetic in the birthplace of bungy-jumping? (Overnight Queenstown) BL

Milford Sound Cruise – 1 night

Day 14: Sunday 28 November, Queenstown – Te Anau – Milford Sound

- Milford Sound Cruise

Some of the world's most spectacular scenery is to be found in Fiordland, a National Park with dramatic mountains, deep fiords, waterfalls and plenty of rain. The area is another *Lord of the Rings* filming location. This morning we journey along the edge of Lake Wakatipu, through Kingston and Mossburn, to Te Anau, hub of the fiordland region and the entry to the National Park. The high country scenery, trout rivers and small towns along the way are breathtaking.

From Te Anau we continue along the Eglington Valley to the Mirror Lakes, then follow the "Avenue of the Disappearing Mountain", past Cascade Creek and Lake Gunn to The Divide. We drive through the Hollyford Valley to the Homer Tunnel, a man-made tunnel cut out of the rock wall, to emerge into the Cleddau Valley, then on to Milford Sound, an amazing 22km long fiord dominated by Mitre Peak (1,692m). This road is one of New Zealand's most extraordinary drives.

In late afternoon we depart on our overnight cruise of Milford Sound on board *The Milford Mariner*, which offers accommodation in private cabins with en-suite bathrooms. On this luxury vessel, we shall cruise the

full length of this spectacular fiord to the Tasman Sea before anchoring for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. The Fiordland National Park was made a World Heritage Area by the UN in 1986, so it will not be possible for us to step on land. You may, however, wish to go exploring by kayak with the ship's nature guide, or simply relax on deck. (Overnight Cruise on Milford Mariner) BD

Queenstown – 1 night

Day 15: Monday 29 November, Milford Sound – Te Anau – Queenstown

- Time at leisure in Queenstown
- Farewell Evening meal at a local restaurant

We disembark this morning and return to Queenstown where the remainder of the day is at leisure. You may wish to take the opportunity to stroll in the beautiful Queenstown Botanic Gardens, or take a boat journey up and down the lake, as did novelist Anthony Trollope when he visited – the scenery reminded him of Switzerland and he loved the “wild landscape beauty” of the region.

In the evening we gather for a farewell dinner at one of Queenstown's fine local restaurants. (Overnight Queenstown) BD

Day 16: Tuesday 30 November, Depart Queenstown

- Morning at leisure in Queenstown
- Transfer to Airport

Our tour finishes in Queenstown. Those travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will be transferred to Queenstown airport for their flight home to Australia. B

Accommodation

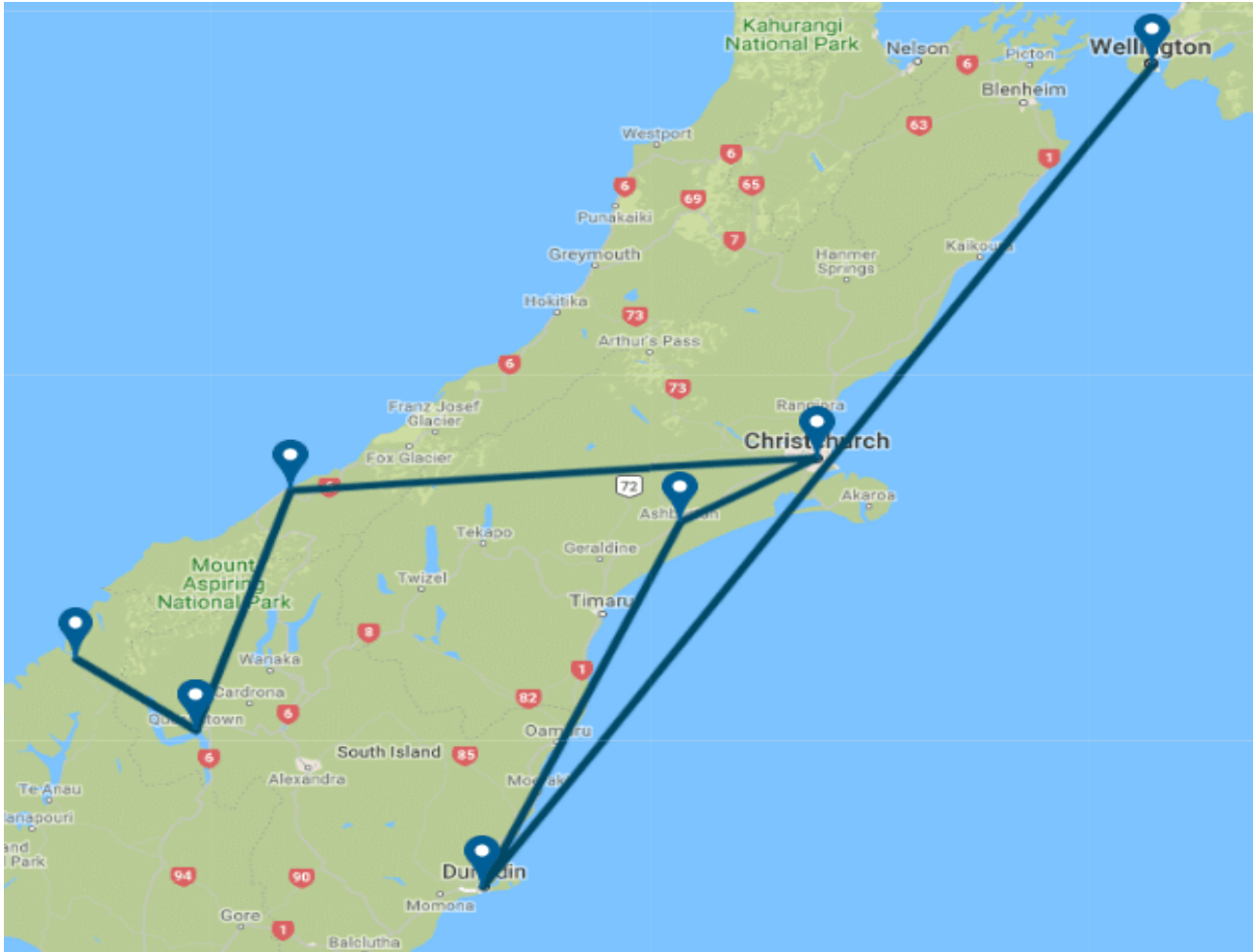
16-days: A Literary, Historical and Cultural Tour of New Zealand

ASA has selected 3- to 5-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom. Double/twin rooms for single occupancy may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the Single Supplement. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure.

- Wellington (3 nights): 4-star Copthorne Hotel Wellington Oriental Bay – a modern hotel located on Oriental Parade overlooking Wellington's harbour, close to restaurants and cafes. www.millenniumhotels.com
- Dunedin (2 nights): 4-star Distinction Dunedin Hotel – housed in Dunedin's former Chief Post Office, the hotel is located in the heart of the city, within a short walk of The Octagon, theatres and shops. www.distinctionhotels.co.nz
- Ashburton (2 nights): 3-star Hotel Ashburton – a modern hotel set in 4 hectares of landscaped grounds. www.hotelash.co.nz
- Christchurch (2 nights): 4-star Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square Hotel – a contemporary hotel located in the city centre, offering rooms with city views. www.accorhotels.com
- Lake Moeraki (2 nights): 4-star Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge – New Zealand's premier boutique nature lodge, located alongside the Moeraki River, surrounded by the ancient rainforests of Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area. The lodge offers secluded rooms with private facilities and the 'Riverside Restaurant' enjoys peaceful views of the river. www.wildernesslodge.co.nz
- Queenstown (2 nights): 4-star Copthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront Queenstown Lakefront – close to the shores of LakeWakatipu and 5 minutes' walk from the town centre. www.millenniumhotels.com
- Milford Sound Cruise (1 night): The Milford Mariner cruise ship – with a capacity of 60 passengers, we journey the length of the stunning Milford Sound fiord and anchor for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. The ship offers twin-bedded cabins with en-suite bathrooms. www.realjourneys.co.nz
- Queenstown (1 night): 4-star Copthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront Queenstown Lakefront – close to the shores of LakeWakatipu and 5 minutes' walk from the town centre. www.millenniumhotels.com

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement Option A: Single accommodation throughout the tour

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement Option B: Single accommodation at all hotels; twin-share cabin on the Milford Mariner

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3 and 4-star hotels, twin-share cabins on board the *Milford Mariner* (Milford Sound)
- Domestic flight Wellington - Dunedin in economy class
- Breakfast daily, lunches/picnics and dinners indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch/packed lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach and cruise as outlined in the tour itinerary
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights on arrival and departure
- Portorage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Handbook
- Entrance fees
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Wellington, Queenstown - Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance

Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 16-day tour involves:

- A moderate amount of walking mainly during outdoor site visits, often up and down hills and/or flights of stairs, and uneven terrain along rainforest and lowland forest tracks and across streams and rivers (eg Lake Moeraki). You therefore need to be a good walker and be prepared to walk into forested and uneven terrain and surfaces (incl. tracks, boardwalks, bridges and streams)
- The daily schedule often involves an early-morning departure (between 8.00-8.30am and on some days at 7.00am), concluding in the late afternoon (between 5.30-6.30pm)
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person
- 3- to 4-star hotels with six hotel changes and one overnight cruise at Milford Sound
- 1 internal flight from Wellington to Dunedin
- Coach travelling is often on minor roads. There is also some travel along steep and winding mountain roads (on days we travel along the west coast of the South Island, Milford Sound, Queenstown)

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the Terms and Conditions section given below.

Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers see: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

Making a Tentative Reservation before the tour price has been published

ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$500.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities without assistance or support:-

- walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15-20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. The number of spaces available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Single Supplement

Option A

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. There are a limited number of cabins available for single use on the *Milford Mariner*. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Option B

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. However, accommodation will be in twin-share cabins on the *Milford Mariner*. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.